MAR 0 1 2004 FOR THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ralf KRUEGER

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/605,492

For: PHASE SHIFT METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

IMPLEMENTING PHASE-CONTRAST OR MODULATION-CONTRAST

OBSERVATION ON MICROSCOPES

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I certify that this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is being deposited on February 26, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

C. Paul Maliszewski

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Sir:

Please preliminary amend the above-identified application as follows: